

Recreation, Scenery, Facilities, & Human Health and Safety

Recreation Findings

- The Nantahala and Pisgah NFs are the most visited in the Eastern US.
- Forty-seven percent of visitors are from within 25 miles of the forest and more than 20 percent travel over 200 miles to visit the forests.
- Decreasing budget allocations are resulting in reduced facility maintenance.
- Less than half of the existing developed site infrastructure is currently predicted to be sustainable over the long-term.

Scenery Findings

- Sightseeing is one of the most popular outdoor recreation activities.
- Viewing and photographing wildlife is one of the fastest growing outdoor recreation activities.
- Visual Quality Objectives are being met but using a system that does not adequately accommodate integrated resource management across the broader landscape.

Recreation Opportunity Spectrum Finding

- It is unclear if the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum used in the 1987 plan provide the settings visitors want in the forest.

Human Health and Safety Findings

- Safety related to waterfalls and flood events are an increasing concern.
- Storm events are increasingly impacting recreation activities such as camping and trail use near or next to streams/rivers/waterfalls.



What does the 1987 Plan say?

Recreation

- Provide different environmental and social settings for outdoor recreation opportunities and provide for a variety of recreation activities appropriate for these settings.
- Manage, maintain, and develop sites to enhance activities associated with a forest environment to provide a safe, aesthetically pleasing, nonurban atmosphere and to support dispersed recreation opportunities.

Scenery

- Enhance number of viewing opportunities through a variety of methods.
- Set priorities for scenery management.
- Design forest management activities to meet Visual Quality Objectives for each management area.
- Current direction is based on the Visual Management System which is less flexible than the Scenery Management System.

Recreation Opportunity Spectrum

- Every Management Area is assigned one or more Recreation Opportunity Spectrum classifications.

Human Health and Safety

- Direction for trail design, construction, and maintenance considers human, health, and safety.
- Provide facilities as needed for public safety, resource protection, and enhancement of the recreational experience.